



# C-gram



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NUMBER 04-2009

## From the Commissioner

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr.

This edition of the C-Gram is dedicated to apparatus purchases and the changes we have made to our purchasing process and specifications. First, the Specification Committee has been doing a great job. They put together two new specifications for pumpers and ladder trucks that were much improved over specs in the past with new safety features and did this very quickly so that the Department could contract this before the end of the year. Starting January 1, 2010 new emission changes will increase the cost of the diesel engines that we put into the apparatus so by contracting this before the end of the year, we will not have to pay for the 2010 emission changes. This saved the Department approximately \$130,000.00. The work of the Committee is not done. We will be bringing different vendors in to meet with the Committee to describe the various features that each manufacturer builds into their apparatus and updating the committee on new technology changes.

We put out to bid orders for 3 pumpers and 2 trucks to be delivered in the summer of 2010. We have developed specifications that allow multiple companies to competitively bid on our apparatus purchases. We had three manufacturers bid on the 2 ladder trucks, E-One, KME and Crimson. Four manufacturers bid on the 3 pumpers; E-One, KME, Sutphen and Crimson. Opening our bids up to competition is a great benefit to us. For example, the last order for engines, the winning bidder (E-One) bid \$423,977.00 per engine. This time, even though we added Electronic Stability Control, air bags, better brakes, air ride suspension, on spot chains and a list of other requirements, the winning bidder, KME, bid \$418,692.00 and that includes a 5 year bumper to bumper comprehensive warranty. We purchased a better, safer vehicle and saved money. Later in this C-gram, we have listed the items that we have added to our specification. The bid prices are as follows:

### Bid # 2462 Aerial Ladders

BullDog/KME	\$ 734,770.00 ea	\$ 1,463,740.00
Crimson Fire	\$ 748,170.00 ea	\$ 1,496,340.00
<b>Greenwood/E One</b>	<b>\$ 733,799.00 ea</b>	<b>\$ 1,467,598.00</b>

Of note: Sutphen was considered to not meet the specification because their nearest service facility is in E. Hartford, CT.

### Bid # 2463 Custom Pumpers

A/E/Sutphen	\$ 408,308.00 ea	\$ 1,224,924.00
<b>BullDog/KME</b>	<b>\$ 418,692.00 ea</b>	<b>\$ 1,256,076.00</b>
Crimson Fire	\$ 419,473.00 ea	\$ 1,258,419.00
Greenwood/E One	\$ 466,583.00 ea	\$ 1,399,749.00

Greenwood Motors/E-One was the winning bidder on the aerials and Bulldog Motors/KME was the winning bidder on the pumpers.

## Apparatus Specification Committee Members

Chairman: Captain Edward Scigliano, *Fire Training Academy*  
Deputy Chief Peter Laizza, *Fleet, Facilities/Maintenance*  
Captain Neal Mullane, Jr., *Ladder 1*  
FF Bob Quinn, *Fire Training Academy*  
FF Kevin Minor, *Engine 21*  
FF Edward Doherty, *Ladder 23*  
Lieutenant Richard Cook, *Fleet Facilities/Maintenance*  
Lieutenant James Greene, *Engine 33*  
Shawn Herlihy, *Director of Transportation*  
William Stockwell, *Fleet Safety Inspector*  
Donald Denning, *Public Safety CIO*



W-12 Air Supply Unit, a 2009 KME/Ford Truck

## *From the Chief of Department*

Ronald W. Keating

Changes in the department are now being implemented that should bring about a stronger and safer fire department. In addition to firefighting and other emergency responses, training has become a large component of our workload. The increased training that our department is doing can only serve to strengthen our ability to do our job. The command staff and I stand firmly behind the rank and file in their abilities to control these fires and emergencies. Our department has been studied, investigated, analyzed, and even second-guessed, but this scrutiny has only made us stronger. When you wear the uniform of our department, you represent the best fire department in the country. Be proud to wear the uniform of the Boston Fire Department. I am.



**On Warranties:** In the past, we have been getting a one year warranty on our apparatus. This is totally unacceptable. Other fire departments have been able to negotiate longer warranties than one year. A one year warrantee says that the manufacturer does not have confidence in their product and does not value the BFD as a customer. If you went to buy your family a new car and they offered you a one year warranty, you would walk out of the showroom. However, we have, in the past, accepted a one year warranty on a ladder truck costing close to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million dollars! I believe manufacturers must stand behind their product for longer than one year and if they won't then they don't have to bid on our apparatus. When we put Rescue-2 out to bid, KME not only gave us the best price, but VOLUNTARILY gave us a 2 year comprehensive warranty, when the other competitor only offered one year. The additional year is not only a huge value to us, but demonstrates confidence in the quality of the product.

I later learned that the City of Los Angeles had completed an apparatus purchase with a 5 year comprehensive warranty as part of the deal. That is when I decided that we should require a 5 year warranty, too. The bottom line here is if the manufacturer is not confident in the quality of their product to stand behind the product with a 5 year warranty, then we should look elsewhere for our apparatus.

**Emergency One Plant Visit:** Commissioner Fraser visited the Emergency One (E-One) manufacturing facility in Ocala, Florida and saw the new ladders that will be delivered to the Boston Fire Department in January.

The new design for Ladder 24 has a lower overall height which will enable the ladder truck to fit in more of the city's firehouses. "Many of our firehouses were built years ago when the size of the apparatus was much smaller", the Commissioner said. "We had to change our specification and require lower overall height to ensure that our new trucks being purchased could fit in these houses." The new Ladder 24 will have an overall height of 10 ft 11 inches +/- one inch.



The Commissioner toured the facility with E-One President Peter Guile and members of the E-One Leadership team. "I was impressed with the changes E-One has made in the past 2 years to improve efficiency in their plant and to improve quality of the product they are delivering. The entire E-One team was very friendly and informative."

**Improved Safety:** The specifications developed for this purchase will result in the safest apparatus we have ever purchased. In addition to improved disc braking systems and "Jake Brakes" we have added Transmission Retarders which uses the Transmission as an additional braking system. We have added occupant protection systems such as airbags in the entire cab, auto tightening of seat belts and Electronic Stability Control. Additionally, we have required manufacturers to provide independent third party safety testing IAW NFPA Standards to demonstrate that they meet safety standards. These items are industry standards that will make our apparatus the safest we can purchase.

**Marine Unit Update:** The fire boat *FIREFIGHTER* is currently at Fairhaven Shipyard Company for repairs and hull painting that was originally contracted for \$84,000.00. An inspection of the two fire pumps concluded that they were beyond repair and based on the age of the vessel, the manufacturer does not make those particular pumps any more so parts were not available. We have gone ahead with an Emergency procurement to buy two new pumps and have them installed which cost an additional \$56,000.00.

**Rescue Dive Team Boat:** We received a grant of \$215,000.00 from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase a new high speed rigid hull inflatable (RHIB) boat for the Dive Team. We hope to put this out to bid soon. This boat will be approximately 30 feet long with two Twin Evinrude E-TEC 225HP Counter-Rotating Two Stroke Engines. This boat will be able to carry the Dive Team and all of their equipment at a speed of approximately 40 MPH. It will have GPS, radar, sirens, lights, racks for 12 dive tanks and plenty of storage.

**Apparatus Purchases for 2010:** For 2010, we will be purchasing 3-Custom Pumpers and 2-Aerial Ladder Trucks. The bid opening date was 18 November 2009. The specifications were designed by the Department's Specification Committee with many improvements in safety and performance. The bid was a competitive process. Some of the improvements include:

#### **Safety:**

- Transmission retarder for additional driveline braking reducing service brake wear and heat.
- Ex225 Disc Plus 17" rotors for improved heat transfer and parking brake holding force.
- Stability control that will reduce the possibility of rollover.
- Driver and passenger airbags.
- Pressure Pro Tire Pressure Monitoring system – Monitors tire air inflation and alerts operator should any tire fall below the standard specification.
- Occupant Detection System – Visual indicator mounted above officer's seat which identifies firefighters who are not belted in for safety.
- On-Spot Chains – supplemental traction system which is engaged by the driver with a switch in the cab to assist when icy conditions exist.

#### **Performance:**

- Steering axle increase to 20,000 pounds to handle current weights exerted on front axles and suspension.
- Multiplex electrical system upgrade to Weldon VMUX in the pumpers to improve diagnostics and control of vehicle electrical system.
- Rear axle suspension change to Hendrickson FireMaxx FMX242 air ride with rating of 24,000 lbs. on Fire Engines.
- Hale QMAX 1250GPM pump with integrated master intake valve and air primer system
- Warning light upgrade to all LED scene and perimeter lights.

#### **Other changes:**

- 5 year comprehensive warranty.
- Lowered dash on officers to accommodate MDT in front of officer.
- PACKTRAC panels in cab over EMS cabinet for equipment mounting and also on rear walls of compartments.
- Severe service interior eliminating plastic and soft vinyl to prevent premature damage to interior and improve longevity of cab.
- Installation of "ZONAR" system for daily Preventive maintenance tracking.
- Air system auto eject – supplemental air supply hose is automatically ejected from vehicle connection when ignition switch is activated.
- Battery Charger auto eject - supplemental charging cord is automatically ejected from vehicle connection when ignition switch is activated.



Bulldog Motors in Hopkinton is doing final assembly on the new KME Rescue 2 truck. After receiving it from the factory, mechanics at Bulldog are installing shelves, radios, emergency lights and reels for the Hurst tool among other things. Several visits to the KME plant in Pennsylvania were made by Lt. Mike Walsh and Firefighter Robert Bottary of Rescue 2 during the assembly.



## New Fleet Staff

The department has hired four new staff members, all of whom are certified mechanics, in Fleet operations. They are:

**Shawn Herlihy, Director of Transportation** - Shawn is a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) who is responsible for the department's Fleet operations. He has over 20 years of experience, including diesel instructor for Universal Technical Institute, service manager for truck repair and maintenance at Bayside Mitsubishi and as a mechanic with the Town of Stoughton Fire Department. In addition to holding EVT certification, Shawn also is a Master Medium/Heavy Truck Technician with L2, ASE Automotive Technician, Navistar Certified Technician and has a CDL license. Shawn recently was selected to serve on the NFPA 1071: Standard for Emergency Vehicle Technician Professional Qualifications Technical Committee. This Committee is responsible for professional qualifications for personnel engaged in the diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of systems and components that are unique to emergency response vehicles.

**Bill Stockwell, Fleet Safety Coordinator** - As Fleet Safety Coordinator, Bill is responsible to ensure the effective maintenance and repair of the department's fleet. He comes to BFD with 18 years of experience involving all aspects of maintenance in the transportation industry, most recently as Service Manager for C&S Specialty in North Smithfield, RI. C&S sells Fire Apparatus and equipment throughout New England. Bill oversaw the daily scheduling and repairs performed by his technical staff, managed parts, resolved warranty issues with manufacturers and customers, and acted in a sales capacity while promoting various services C&S could provide. Bill maintains a CDL license and certificates in maintenance and safety from various sources including but not limited to ASE, EVT, DOT, the EPA and various manufacturers. Bill is presently conducting daily apparatus walkaround training for all companies.

**Luis Castillo, Supervisor –Motor Equipment Repairperson** – Luis comes to the BFD with 17 years of experience. He is a supervising mechanic for our operations. He is a graduate of TAD Technical Institute and most recently has worked for Penske Truck Leasing as a diesel technician for the last nine years. Luis is presently being certified as an emergency vehicle technician.

**Brad Pavao, Heavy Motor Equipment Repairperson** – Brad is a graduate of Universal Technical Institute and is Cummins Mid-Range and Heavy Engine certified. He has experience in preventative maintenance on fleet trucks and boats. He is presently being certified as an emergency vehicle technician.

**Driver Training:** FLT Jim O'Brien has done a great job putting together the Driver Training Course. He has developed the curriculum and course based on the best practices that he has investigated around the country and is in the process of training the Department Company by Company. The new course will be part of the Training Division and we increased the staff at the Training Division by 4 positions to staff this course. The department has purchased a Vigil driver training system to be used as part of the course.

**Daily Apparatus Walkaround Training:** The Fleet Safety Coordinator, Bill Stockwell is conducting training on how to conduct a proper daily apparatus inspection. Bill is holding the training in quarters at each firehouse using your apparatus and the Department's daily inspection checklist. So far, approx 180 people have been through the training and it will continue until all companies have been trained. When we receive the "ZONAR" system additional training on that system will be conducted.

**Facilities Update:** The Fire Department is pleased to welcome **Joseph Mayo** as its new Facilities Manager. Joe will be responsible for all of the department's facilities management. Joe comes to us as a Facilities Management professional who worked at Citizens Financial Group for 26 years as Vice President – Regional Facilities Manager. He was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the banks' commercial real estate, providing dependable and efficient service delivery, project management, contract management, and developed and managed the operating and capital expense budgets. Joe has already visited every fire house for an initial visit and has been working closely with the City's Public Construction Management Division on several of our capital construction projects, including the slab renovation project ongoing at several locations.



Scaffolding: Engine 41 & Ladder 14 in Allston



Jackhammering: Engine 33 & Ladder 15 in the Back Bay